



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Agenda

### Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk (860)441-6640  
Town Manager (860)441-6630

*Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski,  
Frank O'Beirne, Jr., John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, James L. Streeter, and Elissa T. Wright.*

Tuesday, February 07, 2006

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. ROLL CALL

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

#### PUBLIC HEARING

**Recess for Public Hearing to Solicit Comments Prior to Preparation of the Proposed FYE 2007 Budget**

#### IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to ten minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

##### a. Approval of Minutes

2006-0036 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Meeting of January 17, 2006 are hereby accepted and approved.

##### b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2005-0317 FYE 2005 CAFR

Referral

2006-0023 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant

Referral

2006-0028 Tercentennial Legacy Playground

Referral

2006-0029 Mystic Academy Parklet Playscape

Referral

2006-0031 Appointment and Reappointment of NRZ Committee Members

Resolution

2006-0032	Appointment of Richard Fitzgerald to Planning Commission	Resolution
2006-0033	Appointment of Wendy Perez Pullen to Planning Commission	Resolution
2006-0034	Appointment of Robert Deveau, Jr. to the Fair Rent Commission	Resolution
2006-0035	Appointment of Yolanda Carroll to the Board of Assessment Appeals	Resolution

**c. Special Trust Fund Contributions**

2006-0030	Special Trust Fund Contributions	Resolution - Consent
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RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Emanuel and Ellen Dander (in memory of Mildred Hastedt) - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary  
Hugh R. Smith (in memory of Mildred Hastedt) - \$25.00 - Library Discretionary  
Various Donations - \$1,133.44 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
City of Groton - \$382.50 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Joseph Lawrence School of Nursing Alumni Association - \$50.00 - Library Discretionary  
Mistick River BPW - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
J. H. Simpson - \$60.00 - Social Services Discretionary

**VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

- a. Town Councilors**
- b. Representative Town Meeting**
- c. Clerk of the Council**
- d. Town Manager**
- e. Town Attorney**

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Scott**
- b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond**
- c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski**
- d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets**
- e. Finance - Chairman Wright**
- f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman O'Beirne**
- g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter**
- h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik**
- i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson**

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**2005-0317 FYE 2005 CAFR****Referral****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FYE 2005 AUDIT REPORT**

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the annual audit of the Town's finances, covering the fiscal year from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, and

WHEREAS, the Council has discussed the audit findings with the manager of the audit team from the firm of Blum Shapiro, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts and files the FYE 2005 CAFR, Auditor's Report and Management Letter and undertakes to comply with all appropriate recommendations therein.

**Legislative History**

**12/16/2005 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the W**

**1/24/2006 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution**

*Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo reviewed the state requirements that lead to the publication of the CAFR document. Mr. Pandolfo reviewed the introductory section of the document. Vanessa Rossitto of Blum, Shapiro & Company reviewed the financial section of the document. Mr. Pandolfo then reviewed the various financial statements and schedules. Ms. Rossitto reviewed the state and federal audit reports.*

**1/24/2006 Town Council Committee of the Whole Motion**

*to recommend a resolution accepting the FYE 2005 CAFR*

**2006-0023 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant****Referral****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program provides funds for police departments for reducing crime and improving public safety, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Police Department needs to target aggressive drivers and speeders in known problem areas, such as the Route 12 - U.S. Route 1 corridor, and

WHEREAS, funds from a new grant would be used to purchase additional speed detection devices, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant consisting of State and Federal funds totaling \$4,000.

**Legislative History**

**1/13/2006 Mayor Referred Town Council Finance Committee**

**1/24/2006 Town Council Finance Committee Recommended for a Resolution**

**2006-0028 Tercentennial Legacy Playground****Referral****RESOLUTION ON FUNDING FOR THE TERCENTENNIAL LEGACY PLAYGROUND**

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed the construction of a specially accessible and inclusive playground within Poquonnock Plains Park, to be known as the Tercentennial Legacy Playground, and

WHEREAS, it is planned that the majority of the funding for this \$350,000 project will come from sources other than taxpayer funds, and

WHEREAS, the playground committee and the Town Manager recommend using funds unexpended from the Community Events Fund (Acct. # 32600) and the Tercentennial Donations Account (Acct. #

73320), now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the designation of \$28,000 from accounts 32600 and 73320 for the Tercentennial Legacy Playground, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town staff may initiate and conduct a fundraising program and a partnership program, to seek grants and contributions for this project, to be deposited in funds of the Town of Groton, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council welcomes all kinds of collaborations from citizens, businesses and other organizations for this purpose.

#### Legislative History

<b>1/18/2006</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Referred</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the W</b>
<b>1/24/2006</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Recommended for a Resolution</b>	

*Director of Parks and Recreation John Silsby provided background on the proposed construction of an inclusive playground that would be unique to the Groton community. Mr. Silsby reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the project and noted the key supporters. The concept is to provide a legacy for the Town's Tercentennial and the parking will help the Town continue to be a proactive leader in the area of inclusion.*

*Program Supervisor for Special Needs Eileen Cicchese described the concept of inclusion. The total cost for the project is \$350,160. Mr. Silsby outlined proposed funding including fundraising ideas. He then reviewed the site selection process, which identified Poquonnock Plains Park. He assured the Council that the Town will work with neighbors of the Park. Mr. Silsby briefly reviewed equipment selection. The proposed timeline for the project involves fundraising in 2006 and early 2007, with work starting in spring 2007. The project can be done in phases, depending of available funding.*

*Councilor Bartinik asked if the fundraising could be done before the Town is approached for funding. Mr. Silsby noted that he would like to use the Tercentennial funds as seed money and to create this legacy. Councilor Bartinik asked what would happen to the Sutton Park playground. Mr. Silsby noted that nothing will happen to it unless it becomes unsafe and he explained that it is a totally different playground than this proposal. Councilor Bartinik asked how this equipment is different from the equipment in other playgrounds and how it serves handicap persons. Manager of Recreational Services Jerry Lokken noted that there is value in the old type of play equipment, but it utilizes a series of ramps. Inclusionary equipment is ground based and allows disabled persons to approach the equipment the same as any other person. It puts children at the same level in eye contact with each other; everyone starts at the same place. This is a subtle, but important difference designed to foster inclusion. Councilor Bartinik does not feel the equipment is unique and he suggested that the playground is being labeled as a handicap playground to procure funding, but it is no different than other playground.*

*Mr. Lokken explained that inclusion doesn't mean just putting people together in the same place. It also involves emotional, psychological, and social aspects that allow people of all abilities to come together. Ms. Cicchese noted that ramped playgrounds do not allow children to interact with each other. Inclusive and handicap accessible are two different things.*

*Councilor Bond would support using the \$28,000 in Tercentennial funds. She asked about the cost to maintain the park. Director of Human Services Marge Fondulas noted that the surfacing has been chosen as recommended by experts in the field and that surface would need to be refurbished at some point. Councilor Bond recommended that a fund be set up to maintain the park. Ms. Fondulas added that the equipment was chosen because of its durability and weather-resistance.*

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that the group is looking for Council support of the concept. There has been money for neighborhood parks placed in the CIP for years, and this is just one possible use for the funds. He suggested that a discussion take place about each piece of equipment to hear what benefits there are to a disabled person. The intent is not to label the playground and build a "run of the mill" playground, but to create an inclusionary playground for all residents.*

*Councilor Streeter noted that "inclusion" is important. He raised a handicapped daughter and it is difficult to take a handicapped child to a playground and involve them. He expressed support for the fundraising attempt and stated that the Council should support the concept. With respect to Town funding, Councilor Streeter*

*stated the Town should contribute as much as it can afford.*

*Councilor Bartinik asked if this area of Poquonnock Plains Park is used by anyone else and if the playground will be mobbed during big events. Mr. Silsby responded that the park is designed to draw people to it and there is no specific use there at this time. The track in that area will remain in place.*

*Councilor Wright asked about the ongoing impact on the budget for maintenance. Mr. Silsby noted that he does not have an exact figure at this time. The park will require maintenance as other facilities do, but it is built to last. Ms. Cicchese noted that the equipment has been used in other locations for years, and each piece has been handpicked and reviewed for accessibility.*

<b>1/24/2006</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Motion</b>
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*to recommend a resolution to build the playground using existing funds from accounts 32600 and 73320 (\$28,000) and continue to look for external funding sources.*

*A motion was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to amend the motion to indicate that the Town Council supports the concept of the Tercentennial Legacy Playground.*

*The motion to amend carried unanimously*

**2006-0029**

## Mystic Academy Parklet Playscape

## Referral

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RELOCATION OF A PLAYScape IN MYSTIC

WHEREAS, the beginning of site work for the construction of the new Northeast Academy School will require removal of a two-year-old playscape from its location at the Freeman Hathaway school grounds, and

WHEREAS, the existing play equipment at the Mystic Academy Parklet is in a state of disrepair and is unsafe, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves of the relocation of the newer playscape from Freeman Hathaway to the Mystic Academy Parklet, at a cost of approximately \$18,500 that is to be incurred within funds already appropriated to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

### ***Legislative History***

<b>1/18/2006</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Referred</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the W</b>
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<b>1/24/2006</b>	<b>Town Council Committee of the Whole</b>	<b>Recommended for a Resolution</b>
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*Mayor Watson briefly outlined the proposal to relocate a playscape from Freeman Hathaway to the Mystic Academy Parklet. Councilor Bond asked why the playscape cannot be used at the new school on the Freeman Hathaway site. Town Manager Oefinger noted that it would have to be moved, and there are two distinct playscapes required for an elementary school and this one doesn't meet either state requirement. Additionally, the playscape must be removed in about a month and a half and then stored for a year and half. The playscape was originally intended for summer playground use, not school use.*

*Director of Parks and Recreation John Silsby explained that the playground at the Mystic Academy site must be removed because it is unsafe. A new playscape would draw children into the area. Councilor O'Beirne noted there is no parking in the area so effectively the only people who would use it would be within walking distance. He suggested that the Town explore accessing a parking area owned by the utility company that is currently chained.*

*Town Manager Oefinger reminded the Council that two years ago replacement of the Mystic Academy playscape was proposed, but the Council and RTM cut the funding. This has been an issue for a number of years. This proposal, for under \$20,000 out of current operating funds, will result in a new playscape at the parklet. A new playscape would cost twice as much.*

1/24/2006	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Motion
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*to recommend a resolution authorizing relocation of the Freeman Hathaway playscape to the Mystic Academy Parklet*

**2006-0031      Appointment and Reappointment of NRZ Committee Members      Resolution**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND REAPPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE FORT HILL NRZ COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted an ordinance entitled "An Ordinance for The Fort Hill Homes Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Strategic Plan" on November 27, 2000, and

WHEREAS, this ordinance provides for Town Council appointment of a Fort Hill Area Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Committee, consisting of no less than seven (7) members, up to three (3) of whom may be Town staff as ex-officio members, and,

WHEREAS, the membership of this committee shall reflect the composition of the neighborhood and include, but not be limited to, tenants and property owners, community organizations and representatives of businesses located in the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, vacancies currently exist on this Committee, and several members desire to continue their affiliation with this Committee, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following appointments and reappointments to the Fort Hill Area Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Committee are hereby made with terms as indicated,

**Appointments:**

Officer Dexter Herron (ex officio), Community Police Officer, Town of Groton, 68 Groton Long Point Road, Groton, CT 06340 - Term expiring 12/31/07

Dana Parfitt, 32 St. Paul Court, Groton (homeowner) - Term expiring 12/31/08

Scott Meyer, 75 Midway Oval, Groton (tenant) - Term expiring 12/31/09

**Reappointments:**

Larry Nelson, 50 Midway Oval, Groton (homeowner) - Term expiring 12/31/09

Florine Greene, 155 Midway Oval (homeowner) - Term expiring 12/31/08

Roscoe Merritt, 19 Birmingham Court, Groton (homeowner) - Term expiring 12/31/08

**Legislative History**

1/24/2006	Town Council Personnel/Appointments/Rules /Legislation Committee	Recommended for a Resolution
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**2006-0032      Appointment of Richard Fitzgerald to Planning Commission      Resolution**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING RICHARD FITZGERALD AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

RESOLVED, that Richard Fitzgerald, 8 Benjamin Road, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/07.

**Legislative History**

1/24/2006	Town Council Personnel/Appointments/Rules /Legislation Committee	Recommended for a Resolution
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**2006-0033      Appointment of Wendy Perez Pullen to Planning Commission      Resolution**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING WENDY PEREZ PULLEN AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

RESOLVED, that Wendy Perez Pullen, 76 Deerfield Ridge Drive, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Planning Commission, replacing Michael Sullo, for a term expiring 12/31/10.

Legislative History

1/24/2006      Town Council      Recommended for a  
Personnel/Appointments/Rules      Resolution  
/Legislation Committee

**2006-0034      Appointment of Robert Deveau, Jr. to the Fair Rent Commission      Resolution**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBERT DEVEAU, JR. TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Robert A. Deveau, Jr., 33 Library Street, Mystic, is hereby appointed to the Fair Rent Commission for a term expiring 7/1/08.

Legislative History

1/24/2006      Town Council      Recommended for a  
Personnel/Appointments/Rules      Resolution  
/Legislation Committee

**2006-0035      Appointment of Yolanda Carroll to the Board of Assessment Appeals      Resolution**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING YOLANDA CARROLL AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Yolanda M. Carroll, 88 Atlantic Avenue, Groton Long Point, is appointed as an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending 7/1/08.

Legislative History

1/24/2006      Town Council      Recommended for a  
Personnel/Appointments/Rules      Resolution  
/Legislation Committee

**XI.      OTHER BUSINESS**

**XII.      ADJOURNMENT**